

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 07227 211530Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02  
ICA-20 SP-02 /052 W

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R 211439Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7314  
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

UNCLAS ATHENS 7227

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PGOV, US, CY, TU  
SUBJECT: CHURCH STATE RELATIONS: ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS'  
RESIGNATION NOT ACCEPTED

1. MODERATE KATHIMERINI GAVE A DETAILED ACCOUNT AUGUST 19  
OF THE BACKGROUND OF ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS' OFFER TO RESIGN LAST  
WEEK BECAUSE THE SYNOD OF THE ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE HAD NOT  
ALLOWED HIM TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF POPE PAUL AS A MEMBER OF  
THE OFFICIAL US DELEGATION.

2. THE TEXTS OF THE PATRIARCH'S CABLE REFUSING ARCHBISHOP  
IAKOVOS PERMISSION TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL BECAUSE OF "SUPERME  
INTERESTS OF THE MOTHER CHURCH," THE ARCHBISHOP'S CABLED OFFER  
OF RESIGNATION, AND PATRIARCH DIMITRIOS' FURTHER REPLY WERE  
ALL REPRODUCED BY KATHIMERINI, BASED ON INFORMATION PROVIDED  
BY THE PRESS OFFICE OF THE ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AND SOUTH  
AMERICA. THE ARCHBISHOP SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION ON AUGUST 9  
"BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT MY MISSION IN AMERICA HAS BEEN ONE OF  
SUPREME INTEREST TO THE MOTHER CHURCH AND BECAUSE THE CABLE IN REPLY  
TO MY REQUEST THAT I GO TO THE FUNERAL... AS A MEMBER OF THE  
FIVE-MEMBER WHITE HOUSE DELEGATION OBLIGES ME TO BELIEVE THAT  
MY MISSION IN AMERICA DOES NOT TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION  
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SUPREME CHURCH INTERESTS..."

3. THE REPLY FROM PATRIARCH DIMITRIOS ACKNOWLEDGED RECEIVING  
THAT CABLE, BUT SAID THAT SINCE IT WAS NOT IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH ECCLESIASTICAL PROCEDURES, IT COULD NOT CONSTITUTE A  
"CANONIC RESIGNATION" AND MERELY EXPRESSED THE ARCHBISHOP'S  
"INTENTION" TO RESIGN. THAT "INTENTION" WAS REGRETTEED BY THE

PATRIARCH, WHO REFUSED TO ACCEPT IT, WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT  
IAKOVOS CONTINUE HIS MISSION AS ARCHBISHOP OF AMERICA.

4. THE ARCHDIOCESE PRESS OFFICE NOTED, ACCORDING TO  
KATHIMERINI, THAT ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS HAD ASKED THE WHITE HOUSE  
TO RELEASE HIM FROM BEING A MEMBER OF THE OFFICIAL AMERICAN  
DELEGATION. IT ADDED, HOWEVER, THE WHITE HOUSE HAD INFORMED THE  
ARCHBISHOP THAT, IF HE SO DESIRED, HE COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE  
OFFICIAL AMERICAN DELEGATION TO THE CORONATION OF THE NEW POPE.  
KATHIMERINI NOTED IN CONCLUSION THAT IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THE  
ARCHBISHOP HAD ACCEPTED THIS WHITE HOUSE INVITATION OR WHETHER HE  
WOULD ASK PERMISSION FROM THE PATRIARCHATE TO DO SO.  
MCCLOSKEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHURCH STATE RELATIONS, PERSONNEL RESIGNATIONS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Subject:** CHURCH STATE RELATIONS: ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS' RESIGNATION NOT ACCEPTED  
**TAGS:** PGOV, US, CY, TU, (IAKOVOS, ARCHBISHOP)  
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